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Communist China - Hong Kong: Peking is continuing its pressure on the British.

Yesterday the Chinese mounted massive demonstrations in front of the British Embassy in Peking reminiscent of those staged against the Soviets in early February. Loudspeakers are haranguing the demonstrators around the clock and Prime Minister Wilson has repeatedly been burned in effigy. In Shanghai, a mob sacked the residence of a British diplomat, although he and his family escaped unhurt.

In Hong Kong, the leftists have reportedly been heartened by Peking's Foreign Ministry statement and other indications of mainland support. The leftists are organizing "struggle groups" in preparation for further demonstrations and may attempt to mobilize some of the estimated 400,000 unemployed teenagers in the colony for this purpose.

*The British Foreign Office has drafted a statement of support for the Hong Kong Government which may be released this afternoon. It voices full approval of the Hong Kong Government's determination to "settle labor disputes impartially" while "preserving law and order in the colony," but specifically ignores the Chinese Communist demands.

London anticipates a long war of nerves and believes Hong Kong is in for a rough time, but seems determined not to give in to Peking. The Foreign Office hopes there will be no "obvious gaps" in US naval visits to the colony--which Peking might interpret as a concession--but thinks the scheduled visit of Admiral Sharp, US Pacific Fleet commander, should be canceled.

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Israel - Arab States: Anti-Israeli terrorist incidents are still threatening to precipitate a large-scale Israeli reprisal against Syria.

No Israelis were injured in the latest explosions, on the night of 15-16 May near the Israeli-Jordanian frontier, which the Israelis undoubtedly will attribute to the Syrians.

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On the Arab side, both Syria and Egypt, in addition to instituting a well-publicized military alert, are continuing to link the Israeli military threat to a US-supported conspiracy against the Arab world.

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*France: De Gaulle's emphasis in his press conference yesterday on Europe's new sense of its own identity was clearly aimed at London.

The French President's remarks served as a pointed reminder that British entry into the Common Market could be very costly to further European integration. While he structured his comments to indicate understanding and sympathy, De Gaulle left no doubts that his opposition to British membership remains unchanged.

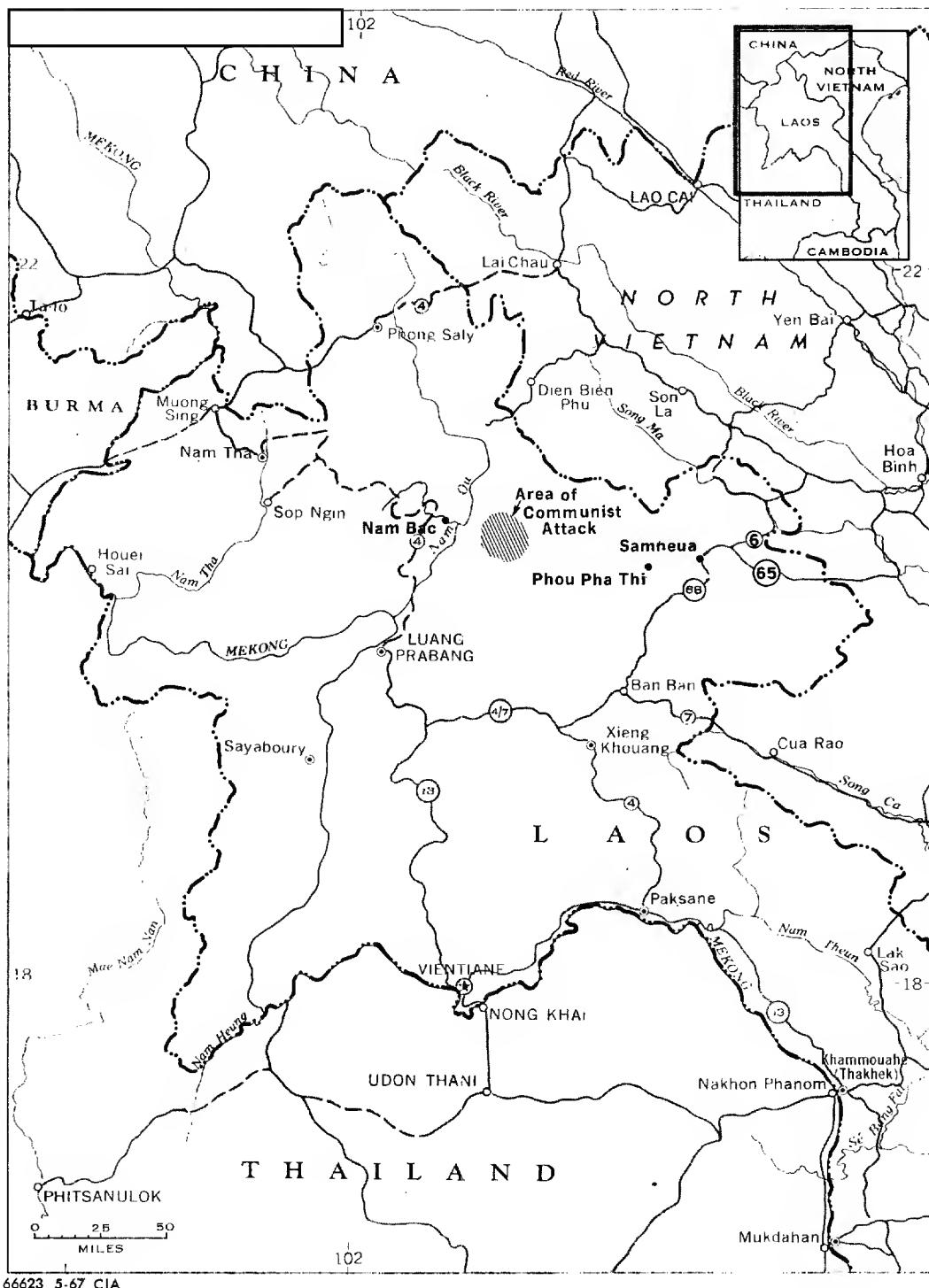
By posing as a "good European," De Gaulle hopes to undercut critics who accuse him of considering only France's interests. He stressed that there would be no French veto of London's bid and indicated Paris' willingness to negotiate, but this was without doubt only laying the groundwork for placing the blame for a failure in negotiations at Britain's door.

On the domestic side, De Gaulle appeared on the defensive. He offered a lengthy explanation of the economic, social, and political factors that led to the request for special powers to enact certain reforms by decree. In addition, his concern that the very narrow Gaullist margin in the new assembly might evaporate was reflected in an indirect warning that voters might eventually retaliate if the majority failed to act as a unit.

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* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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Laos: Communist forces appear to be making a renewed effort to counter recent government initiatives in isolated areas of northern Laos.

In late April and early May, two Communist battalions captured several guerrilla positions east of Nam Bac. The attacks are probably in response to recent government efforts to link elements east of the Nam Hou River with positions near Nam Bac. They may also be a prelude to a Communist attempt to recapture Nam Bac itself, which the government seized last summer and has built into a key forward base. There have been unconfirmed reports of a North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao build-up near Nam Bac.

Farther east, Communist forces were reported early this month to be moving toward a progovernment outpost with access to Routes 6 and 65 and the town of Samneua. In early May, government troops pushed back enemy forces threatening a key government base at Phou Pha Thi.

Although the Communists are reacting to the increased aggressiveness of government forces in the area, they may also be attempting to weaken the government's ability to monitor their movements from advance outposts, some of which are behind Communist lines.

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Cambodia: Sihanouk apparently is expanding his attack on leftist influence in Cambodia.

At a recent cabinet meeting broadcast to the nation, Sihanouk charged that Cambodia's stability was being threatened by increasing "Red" propaganda activities. He repeated accusations that Vietnamese Communists were behind the recent disorders in western Cambodia and that the leftists are in the employ of certain unnamed "foreigners."

For the first time in several years, Sihanouk singled out the Chinese community in Cambodia as a center of subversive activity. Although he absolved Peking of responsibility, he made pointed references to nascent "Red Guard" behavior and the dissemination of Mao's works in Phnom Penh. In a clearly related development, the head of the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Association has resigned in protest against pro-Communist "subversive activities."

Sihanouk also used the cabinet meeting for a wide-ranging defense of Cambodia's neutrality against what he implied were leftist efforts to align Cambodia with the Vietnamese Communists. He repeated his oft-stated position that all Vietnamese harbor territorial designs on Cambodia, and underlined his argument with references to the refusal of Hanoi to recognize Cambodia's present boundaries.

NOTES

Lebanon: President Hilu has knuckled under to pressure from Egypt, Syria, and local leftist political elements to postpone the scheduled visit of a US Sixth Fleet aircraft carrier to Beirut on 26 May. Hilu has suggested that smaller units could call at Beirut in June or July when, he says, political tensions in the area will have lessened. The Lebanese Government has been under strong pressure to cancel fleet visits altogether ever since Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol implied that the fleet would protect Israel if it were attacked by its Arab enemies.

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*Venezuela-Cuba: The Venezuelan Government last night announced that its case against Cuba will be taken to the Organization of American States (OAS). This action was sparked by the recent discovery of a Cuban-led guerrilla landing on the Venezuelan coast. Caracas--probably with one or more co-sponsors-- will call for a consultative meeting of OAS foreign ministers to study possible measures against Cuba, perhaps including patrolling Caribbean waters, economic blockade or a black-list policy.

*Yemen-US: President Sallal late last night told the US Embassy that he had "forgiven" the two US AID officials who have been held prisoner by the Yemenis since late last month. This took place after the two men had been transferred from Taiz to Sana and then released on bail in custody of the US chargé. The two departed Sana by air at 0140 EDT this morning and are presently en route to Asmara.

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